

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03566 070817Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /077 W
-----092606 071802Z /46

R 070811Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7682
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 03566

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PDIP, VT, TW, RW, CH
SUBJECT : VATICAN NAMES MSGR THOMAS WHITE NUNCIO TO
- RWANDA

REF: ROME 10045 (NOTAL)

1. DURING HIS TENURE IN TAIPEI MONSEIGNEUR WHITE HAS IMPRESSED EMBASSY OFFICERS AS A WELL-SPOKEN PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT. HE HAS DISPLAYED A BROAD INTEREST IN TAIWANESE AFFAIRS AND HAS CULTIVATED A WIDE VARIETY OF CONTACTS. OF IRISH ORIGIN, HE IS GREGARIOUS AND HOSPITABLE, AND NOT AVERSE TO GOOD FOOD AND DRINK. HE SEEMS TO HAVE ENJOYED HIS TOUR HERE, BUT LOOKS FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO AFRICA AND USING HIS SWAHILI IN KIGALI. WHITE SAID HE WILL BECOME BISHOP BEFORE GOING TO RWANDA.

2. WHITE RECENTLY TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT HIS SUCCESSOR AS CHARGE IN TAIPEI HAD "PROBABLY ALREADY BEEN APPOINTED AND REQUESTED TO ACCEPT." ALTHOUGH WHITE HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF HIS SUCCESSOR'S NAME,
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HE BELIEVES "PRESS REPORTS" THAT THE NEW CHARGE WOULD BE THE VATICAN'S CURRENT MINISTER-COUNSELOR AT PARIS. WHITE NOTED THAT "MINISTER-COUNSELOR" IS USUALLY A RETIREMENT RANK IN THE VATICAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, BUT THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR TO BE MADE A BISHOP IF THE VATICAN DECIDED TO DOWNGRADE ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN TAIPEI TO THE LEVEL OF PERMANENT CHARGE

(WHITE HAS BEEN CHARGE AD INTERIM, WITH HIS AMBASSADOR
RESIDENT IN DACCA). UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, TAIPEI
WOULD GAIN A BISHOP, BUT LOSE AN AMBASSADOR, AND WHITE
FELT THAT THE GROG WOULD CERTAINLY VIEW THIS AS FURTHER
ATTENUATION OF ITS TIES WITH THE VATICAN.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT REFTTEL TO KIGALI AND
HONG KONG. UNGER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PDIP, VT, TW, RW, CH, (WHITE, THOMAS)
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